

What is claimed is:

1. A business method comprising:

creating an agreement between a first entity and a second entity to provide a data protection service to a third entity, wherein the first entity purchases a data protection service from the second entity for use by the third entity; and

creating an insurance agreement between the first entity and the third entity, wherein the insurance agreement provides that the first entity will insure the third entity for losses arising out of lost data, wherein the insurance agreement authorizes the third entity to use the data protection service provided by the second entity.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the insurance agreement requires the third entity to use the data protection service provided by the second entity.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first entity's insurance of the third entity against losses arising of data loss is at least partially contingent upon the third entity's using predetermined services provided by the second entity.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined services are specified in the insurance agreement.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the identity of the second entity is specified in the insurance agreement.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data protection service is a data backup service, and further comprising:

creating a backup copy of the third entity's data at a location controlled by the second entity; and

generating, after a loss of the third entity's data, a further copy of the third entity's data from the backup copy.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

8. A method according to claim 1, and further comprising providing compensation from the first entity to the second entity in return for the second entity's provision of data protection services to the third entity.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the third entity is not required to pay a premium to the first entity, beyond what the first entity would ordinarily charge for providing insurance without the provision of data protection services.

10. A loss mitigation tool for an insurer that insures an insured entity, wherein the insurer purchases a data protection service from a second entity for use by the insured entity, the loss mitigation tool comprising:

an insurance agreement between the insurer and the insured entity, wherein the insurance agreement provides insurance to the insured entity for losses arising out of lost data, and wherein the insurance agreement includes a data protection provision under which the insured entity is allowed to use the data protection service.

11. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 10, wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured entity to use the data protection service provided by the second entity.

12. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 10, wherein the insurance agreement makes the insured entity's recovery from the insurer for losses arising out of lost data at least partially contingent upon the insured entity's use of the predetermined data protection services provided by the second entity.

13. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 10, wherein the identity of the second entity is specified in the insurance agreement.

14. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 10, wherein the data protection service is a data backup service, and the data backup service comprises:

apparatus operable to create a backup copy of the insured entity's data at a location controlled by the second entity; and

apparatus operable to generate a copy of the insured entity's data from the backup copy.

15. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 14, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

16. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 10, wherein the insurer compensates the second entity for providing the data protection service to the insured entity, and wherein the insured entity is not required to pay compensation for the provision of the data protection service beyond what the insurer would ordinarily charge for insuring the insured entity against losses arising out of lost data.

17. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 16, wherein the insurance agreement includes a condition that the insured entity is responsible for using the data protection service if the insured entity is to recover under the insurance agreement, and wherein the insurance is not provided if the condition is not satisfied.

18. An insurance system comprising:
a data protection service provider;
an insurer, wherein the insurer acquires data protection services from the data protection service provider for use by the insurer's insureds; and
an insured that is insured by the insurer against losses arising out of lost data, wherein an insurance agreement between the insurer and the insured allows the insured to use the data protection services acquired by the insurer.

19. An insurance system according to claim 18, wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured to use the data protection service provided by the data protection service provider.

20. An insurance system according to claim 18, wherein the insurance of the insured against losses arising out of lost data is at least partially contingent upon the insured's using predetermined data protection services provided by the data protection service provider.

21. An insurance system according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined data protection services are specified in the insurance agreement.

22. An insurance system according to claim 18, wherein the data protection service provider provides a data backup service, and further comprising:

apparatus operable to create a backup copy of the insured's data at a location controlled by the data protection service provider; and

apparatus operable to generate, after a loss of the insured's data, a further copy of the insured's data from the backup copy.

23. An insurance system according to claim 22, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

24. An insurance system according to claim 18, wherein the insurer compensates the data protection service provider for allowing the insured to use the data protection services.

25. An insurance system according to claim 24, wherein the insured is not required to pay a premium to the insurer, beyond what the insurer would ordinarily charge for providing insurance without the provision of data protection services.

26. A business method comprising:

creating an insurance agreement between an insurer and an insured, wherein the insurance agreement provides that the insurer will insure the insured for losses arising out of lost data, and wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured to use a data protection service provided by a data protection service provider; and

creating a data protection service agreement between the insured and the data protection service provider, wherein the data protection service agreement provides that the data protection service provider will provide a data protection service to the insured.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the insurance agreement provides that the insurer will charge the insured a reduced premium for the insurance, contingent upon the insured's using the data protection service.

28. A method according to claim 26, wherein the identity of the data protection service provider and the nature of the data protection service are specified in the insurance agreement.

29. A method according to claim 26, wherein the data protection service is a data backup service, and further comprising:

creating a backup copy of the insured's data at a location controlled by the data protection service provider; and

generating, after a loss of the insured's data, a further copy of the insured's data from the backup copy.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

31. A method according to claim 26, wherein the insured's recovery for losses arising out of lost data is at least partially contingent upon the insured's use of the data protection service.

32. A business method comprising:

creating an insurance agreement between an insurer and an insured, wherein the insurance agreement provides that the insurer will insure the insured for losses arising out of lost data, and wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured to use a data protection service provided by a data protection service provider;

creating a data protection service agreement between the insured and the data protection service provider, wherein the data protection service

agreement provides that the data protection service provider will provide a data protection service to the insured; and

creating an agreement between the insurer and the data protection service provider that provides for at least one of:

compensation from the data protection service provider to the insurer for the insurer's requirement that the insured use the data protection service; and

a discount in the amount normally charged by the data protection service provider for providing the data protection service.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured to purchase the data protection service from the data protection service provider.

34. A method according to claim 32, wherein the insured's recovery for losses arising out of lost data is at least partially contingent upon the insured's use of the data protection service.

35. A method according to claim 32, wherein the data protection service is a data backup service, and further comprising:

creating a backup copy of the insured's data at a location controlled by the data protection service provider; and

generating, after a loss of the insured's data, a further copy of the third entity's data from the backup copy.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

37. A business method comprising:
creating an agreement between a provider and a data owner wherein
the agreement includes:

an data protection provision under which the provider
agrees to provide a data protection service to the data owner;
and

an insurance provision under which the provider agrees to
insure the data owner for losses arising out of data loss by the
data owner.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the insurance provision
requires the data owner to use the data protection service.

39. A method according to claim 37, wherein the provider's insurance
of the data owner against losses arising of data loss is at least partially
contingent upon the data owner's using predetermined data protection
services provided by the provider.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the predetermined
services are specified in the agreement.

41. A method according to claim 37, wherein the data protection
service is a data backup service, and further comprising:

creating a backup copy of the data owner's data at a location controlled
by the provider; and

generating, after a loss of the data owner's data, a further copy of the
data owner's data from the backup copy.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein the data backup service
is an online data backup service.

43. A method according to claim 37, wherein the data owner is not required to pay a premium to the provider, beyond what the provider would ordinarily charge for providing insurance without the provision of data protection services.

44. A loss mitigation tool for an insurer that insures an insured entity, wherein the insurer provides a data protection service for use by the insured entity, the loss mitigation tool comprising:

an insurance agreement between the insurer and the insured entity, wherein the insurance agreement provides insurance to the insured entity for losses arising out of lost data, and wherein the insurance agreement includes a data protection provision under which the insured entity is allowed to use the data protection service.

45. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 44, wherein the insurance agreement requires the insured entity to use the data protection service.

46. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 44, wherein the insurance agreement makes the insured entity's recovery from the insurer for losses arising out of lost data at least partially contingent upon the insured entity's use of the predetermined data protection services.

47. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 44, wherein the data protection service is a data backup service, and the data backup service comprises:

apparatus operable to create a backup copy of the insured entity's data at a location controlled by the insurer; and

apparatus operable to generate a copy of the insured entity's data from the backup copy.

48. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 47, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

49. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 44, wherein the insured entity is not required to pay compensation for the provision of the data protection service beyond what the insurer would ordinarily charge for insuring the insured entity against losses arising out of lost data.

50. A loss mitigation tool according to claim 49, wherein the insurance agreement includes a condition that the insured entity is responsible for using the data protection service if the insured entity is to recover under the insurance agreement, and wherein the insurance is not provided if the condition is not satisfied.

51. An insurance and data protection system comprising:

a provider; and

a data owner;

wherein the provider provides a data protection service to the data owner; and

wherein the provider insures the data owner against losses arising out of lost data.

52. A system according to claim 51, wherein the data owner is required by the provider to use the data protection service.

53. A system according to claim 51, wherein the insurance of the data owner against losses arising out of lost data is at least partially contingent upon the data owner's using predetermined data protection services provided by the provider.

54. A system according to claim 51, wherein the provider provides a data backup service, and further comprising:

apparatus operable to create a backup copy of the data owner's data at a location controlled by the provider; and

apparatus operable to generate, after a loss of the data owner's data, a further copy of the data owner's data from the backup copy.

55. A system according to claim 54, wherein the data backup service is an online data backup service.

56. A system according to claim 51, wherein the data owner is not required to pay a premium to the provider, beyond what the provider would ordinarily charge for providing insurance without the provision of the data protection service.